ELECTIONS TO THE FOOD CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

President; In the election held yesterday, Mr. T. Krishna-Pillai and Sahib Bahadur M. Sultan Muhiadheen, have got the largest number of votes 11 and 8 respectively. They are, therefore declared elected to the proposed Advisory Committee on Food Control.

MESSAGE.

The Secretary to the Council read the following message:—

"Under Rule 51 of the Travancore Legislative Rules, I am directed to inform you that at the meeting of the Sri Mulam Assembly held on the 2nd June 1943, the Assembly has passed a motion that the Travancore Disposition of Property Bill should be committed to a joint committee of the Sri Chitra State Council and the Sri Mulam Assembly. I am to request that you will be so good as to let me know whether the Sri Chitra State Council concurs in the motion."

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

THE TRAVANCORE DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY BILL.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuza* cum *Devicolam*): Sir, I beg to move on behalf of this House that the Travancore Disposition of Property Bill may be committed to a joint committee of both the Houses.

Mr. Kochickal P. Balakrishnan Tampi (*Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): I second it.

The motion was passed unanimously.

THE TRAVANCORE KAMMALA (VISWAKARMA) BILL

Mr. M. Govindan (*Nominated*): Sir, I move that the Travancore Kammala (Viswakarma) Bill may be taken into consideration. When the Bill was taken up for consideration at a previous session, there was some doubt expressed by certain honourable members of the house regarding the title 'Kammala' or 'Viswakarma'. Opposers were of the view that members of the community did not wish to be called 'Kammalas', and that they all wished to be known by the name 'Viswakarma'. It was suggested that the consideration of the Bill may stand over till the publication of the Census Report to ascertain the opinion of the community in this matter. Now the Census Report has been published and according to the report, out of a total of 256, 673 Kammalas, the new movement for the name Viswakarma has succeeded in getting only a strength of 5,630. I submit that there can be no objection to the name adopted by the other House, *viz.* The Travancore Kammala (Viswakarma) Bill. It is a concession to the persons who wish to be known as Viswakarmas. This is a compromise.

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President : Yes.

Mr. M. Govindan : I move, therefore, that the Bill according to the original title be continued.

Mr. G. Nilakantan (*Nominated*) : Sir, I second it. In doing so, I beg to submit that the Census Report clearly states that the majority of the community wish to be known as Kammalas and not as Viswakarmas. Only 5,613 members of the community are known as Viswakarmas. This result has been arrived at after clear instructions were given by the Government to the Census Commissioner to give an opportunity to the members of the caste to express themselves whether they are to be known as Kammalas, or Viswakarma (Kammalas) or Kammala (Viswakarmas). Out of respect for the sentiments of Mr. Velu Achary, the other House adopted the name of Viswakarma also, because that name occurs in the Census of 1931. This House cannot be more considerate to the honourable members, the opposers, because the dominant consideration should be for the community as a whole, and not for the feelings of a particular member of the community, however eminent he may be. The Select committee examined about 412 persons, all very respectable members of the community and learned men of the community. Their evidence was collected and the Select Committee came to the conclusion that the name should be Kammalas with Viswakarmas in brackets. The lower House also came to the same conclusion as the Select Committee. There could, therefore, be no doubt as to the sentiment of the community in the matter.

Mr. U. K. Vasudevan Achari (*Nominated*) : Let me in the first place, avail myself of this opportunity to express my feelings of gratitude to the benign Government of His Most Gracious Highness the Maharaja, for having kindly nominated me as a member of this House in connection with the Travancore Kammala (Viswakarma) Bill. This Bill has been on the floor of the other House for a considerably long period and has evoked a good deal of controversy with the result that it has attracted the attention of the community and the public at large. The controversy has been mostly centering round the question whether the community, which I have the privilege to represent, is to be styled Viswakarma or Kammala. The various organisations and associations run by the members of the community in the different parts of the State, have bestowed their very careful and anxious consideration over the question, and have come to definite conclusion, based upon solid ground. The keen intellect and the insight of the Dewan-President were not slow in feeling and realising the sense of the community, and as a result, the Government have kindly decided to give a chance to the community to voice its opinion in this august Assembly. Sir, it has been the long cherished desire of the community

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that it should be titled with a name which it cherishes. And I request for the acceptance of the term Viswakarma for reasons more than one. At first sight, it may appear to the House that it is a fight for the shadows. But the feeling of the community in general and their anxiety over the question have been so great that this has come to be a matter affecting vitally the prestige and the position of the community among the sister communities of the State. The organisations and associations run by the community have adopted the term Viswakarma to denote its name. The word Kammala has, for a long time past, been regarded as a term of contempt, so much so, that no member of the community would at present style himself a Kammala except one or two individuals. It has been brought out in the course of an interpellation in the lower House that the community possesses on the whole 19 Co-operative Societies throughout the State, and out of the 19 Co-operative Societies except a solitary society all go by the name of Viswakarma. It is also instructive, in this connection, to note that the Dewan-President of the Assembly was pleased to lay stress on the importance of the Viswakarma community in the course of his remarks on the occasion. We have other organisations also like this. The honourable members of this House are aware, I suppose, of the existence of the All-Travancore Viswakarma Association, the All-Travancore Viswakarma Mahajana Sabha, the Temple Entry Memorial Viswakarma Association, the Travancore Young Men's Viswakarma Association and the like. And for those who are conversant with the rural parts of the country, it is very easy to come across workshops and cottage industries that go by the name of Viswakarma. In the Annual Exhibition, held in the metropolis in connection with the celebration of the birthday of our Gracious Sovereign, we come across stalls of different kinds where industrial and artistic goods and curiosities produced by the toils of the community are abundantly exhibited. I can assure this House with positive certainty that not a single stall would any of you have noticed there during any of these long years which went by the name of Kammala.

Yet another ground, upon which I am urging for this, is one that pertains the homogeneity of the Viswakarmas in India in general and in the Province of Madras in particular. The sister States of Cochin and Mysore have adopted that term Viswakarma to denote the community. And in the Province of Madras, after a short controversy over the question, the name has been finally settled as Viswakarma.

Mr. G. Nilakantan: May I know from the honourable member when the community felt that they should be named as Viswakarma?

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Mr. U. K. Vasudevan Achari: Under these circumstances, while the Governments and the members of the community in the adjoining Province and States have accepted the name Viswakarma, it passes my comprehension to see why this community in Travancore, which is identical in all respects, should adopt a different name.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon (*Trivandrum and Nedumangad cum Chirayinkil*): May I know when they wanted this name?

President: Answers and questions may be made when honourable members are standing up.

Mr. U. K. Vasudevan Achari: When this issue came up in one of the previous sessions of the Council, it was deferred for a subsequent session, in the hope, that the Census Report would be of some help in settling the nomenclature. But as the Government have now divested themselves of all responsibility for that portion of the Census Report containing reference to this community also, the Census Report is no more of any help to us in this matter. Therefore the duty has again devolved upon the Government to find a solution to this long vexed question.

I have tried in my humble way to place before you my view on the matter and also the sense of the community in general, so far as I was able to gather from my personal observation and by my contact with the leading members of the community and their associations.

Therefore I appeal to the honourable members of this House in general and the Dewan-President in particular to view the thing in a generous and sympathetic way and bless the community with the name which it has been longing for.

Mr. James Fletcher: Sir, I second the request made by the last speaker. It appears that the controversy arises over the question whether the community is to be called Kammalas or Viswa-Karmas. Both the names are in the Bill. "Viswa Karma" is placed within brackets while "Kammala," is placed without brackets probably giving more prominence to the latter word. One member of the community says they should be called Kammalas while another of the same community says that they should be called Viswa-Karmas. To support the latter position, the member says that in British India, especially in the Madras Presidency that community is known as Viswa Karma. When this is the position, there is no reason why the same community in Travancore should not be given the dignified name of Viswa Karma. My submission is that if a community desires to have a dignified name, let them have it.

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President: There is no question of dignity, both are equally dignified names.

Mr. M. Govindan: May I know how the member arrived at the desire of the community. Both names are derived from Sanskrit and are equally dignified.

Mr. James Fletcher: If both the names are identical, I do not understand why then one name should be preferred to another.

President: That is just the point.

Mr. James Fletcher: But certainly one section thinks that the name of Viswa Karma is more dignified than the other. My submission is that we shall adopt one of the two names and I give preference to the name Viswa Karma.

Mr. G. Nilakantan: Then why did the honourable member oppose the motion for adjournment at the last session of the Council?

Mr. James Fletcher: When the question was raised at the last session it was thought that the Census Report would give us a solution of the matter. But the Census Report had other objects to serve and was not meant to find out the wishes of particular communities regarding its appropriate name. And the Commissioner was not asked to find out the wishes of the community. So unless such an issue is raised and unless he was asked to record a finding on the matter we are unable to get any solution to the problem. And the census report cannot be taken as an authority in a matter like this.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: I oppose the amendment on the ground that there is no serious opposition to any clause regarding the merits of the Bill. It is only an objection to the name to be given to the Bill that we have to settle. The Bill has been dragging on for the last several years on this simple question as to whether the Bill should be given the name of Kammala or Viswa-Karma Bill. The community wanted a law for their benefit. It is for that purpose that this Bill was introduced before the Legislature. It was referred to a Select Committee. They considered the clauses of the Bill and finally sent up a report which was passed in the Assembly. When it came over here the first opposition came in regard to the name which should be given to the Bill. This House very liberally allowed sufficient latitude for the members of the community to settle their differences and come to a conclusion on the question of the name of the Bill. Then at the last session it was suggested that by Census operations the wishes of the community could be ascertained and this matter could be deferred till that time. The Census operations took place

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[Mr. V. Sankara Menon]

and we find from the Report that only a small proportion of the community is willing to style itself as Viswa Karmas. Even then there is in the bill both the names of Viswa Karma and Kammala.

President : Order, order. Listening to these debates both here and elsewhere, it strikes me that needless acerbity and strength of feeling are manifested over this name. It is clear that any community is entitled to call itself by whatever name it likes, provided always certain elementary conditions are satisfied. It is equally clear that a certain number of people say (5,000) call themselves Viswa Karmas and a larger number are willing to call themselves Kammalas. Will it be possible for the protagonists of the two points of view to be satisfied with some such solution as this :-

"Whereas it is expedient to amend the law regarding the marriage, succession and adoption amongst the communities some of whom call themselves Malayala Kammalas and some Viswa Karmas, it is hereby enacted as follows :—"

'This Act may be called the Travancore Kammala or Viswa Karma or Kammala-Viswa Karma Act and shall apply to the communities referred to above.'

Supposing this is done why should it not satisfy both parties? It is a suggestion I am making. If it is accepted, well and good, if it is not accepted, then we shall put it to the vote, the Government members refraining from the vote.

Mr. M. Govindan : The suggestion that has been made is quite acceptable.

President : I would rather Mr. Govindan did not accept it. Persons concerned may say something about it.

Mr. James Fletcher : My impression is that if that is adopted there is one difficulty, and that is, it may be an amendment which may necessitate the bill going back to the other House.

President : It is much better to have some kind of harmony in this matter. For every sentence of the honourable member Mr. Vasudevan Achari, Mr. Neelakantan Achari asks a question, and I dare say that but for the fact that he is new to the House he would have done the same when Mr. Neelakantan speaks. It is entirely left to the House to decide. But controversy in the country to take place after the bill has been passed is not desirable. Some people want to call themselves Viswakarmas and others want to call themselves Kammalas or Viswakarma kammalas. What is the objection to that? You cannot force a community to accept a designation which it does not want. What I am suggesting is that the bill must emerge as one acceptable to all sections of the community in spite of the numerical strength or weakness of any section. Supposing three people want to call themselves Viswakarma

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kammalas and a million people as kammalas, this bill would apply to both sets of people. There is no objection. The Government will not be obliged to say that since so and so is a majority and so and so is a minority the decision of the majority is binding on the minority. I may mention that many years ago it was my privilege to assist in the nomination of members to the Madras Legislative Council. Then the question was between Sowrashtras and Sowrashtra Brahmins. Some persons wanted to call themselves Sowrashtras and others Sowrashtra Brahmins. Then there was the fishermen community. Some of these people wanted to call themselves as Agnikula Kshatriyas and others Agnikulas. We had to consider these things. After due consideration I made certain recommendations as a member of the Executive Council of the Madras Government. My recommendations were accepted, both by the Government and the Secretary of State. We proceeded to make the nomination. In the meantime the educational concession rules for backward communities had come into operation and then I got large numbers of petitions asking that Sowrashtras should not be designated as Sowrashtra Brahmins as they would get no concessions and that Agnikulas should not be called Agnikula Kshatriyas. There should be no controversies on this point. I want to avoid this by giving complete liberty to persons to call themselves Kammalas, Viswakarma kammalas or Kammala viswakarmas.

Mr. M. Govindan: I submit that the sense of the House may be ascertained.

President: Yes, yes, I am going to do that. Unless members of the House do move an amendment on the lines suggested, I am not going to move it or take any part in it. Either it has to be put forward by a member of the House as an amendment or the Chair will make a few remarks and sit down.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: The chief quarrel which will now occur will be which name should be the first, Kammala or Viswakarma. There are people who quarrel over the curvature of a fruit even.

President: It is entirely left to the House.

Mr. M. Govindan: Personally, Sir, my submission is that, the best and wisest method of satisfying both the parties, is as suggested from the Chair, to leave the names to their choice. Those who want to call themselves Kammalas can call themselves Kammalas and those who want to call themselves Viswakarmas can do so and the bill when it is passed would bind all the parties so much so these parties without further unnecessary fighting on the question can accept the proposal.

President: Yes. Somebody must sponsor the proposal. The Legal Remembrancer may be asked to do what he can in the matter.

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Mr. K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*): I submit that the people who are most concerned are not speaking on the matter at all.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: This quarrel is rather meaningless. If they are fighting on these names they may fight on every clause of the Bill.

Mr. M. Govindan: I move that this title of the bill shall be the Travancore Kammala or Viswakarma bill.

Mr. James Fletcher: I second the amendment.

Mr. U. K. Vasudevan Achari: I oppose.

The motion was put to the house and carried.

President: They do not fight for the substance of the Bill. There is absolutely no difference of opinion on any clause in the Bill. If the community agrees on the name, there is no difficulty. But they have not done so, that is the point. What is the motion before the house?

Mr. K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai: I submit that the amendment which I move just now namely to have both the names Viswakarma and Kammala may be accepted by the House, if the parties concerned accept it.

President: What is the difficulty? Now this again is a mere suggestion exclusively. At any stage it is open to honourable members to move for the appointment of a joint committee in order to reduce the delay. I am suggesting an amendment somewhat like this. The bill would be on these lines:-

1. This Act may be called the Travancore Kammala (Viswakarma) Act 1118.
2. It shall come into force at once.
3. It shall apply to all Malayala Kammalas domiciled in Travancore and to such other Kammalas whether so domiciled or not, as have or shall have marital relations with the Malayala Kammalas wherever domiciled in respect of their properties in Travancore.
4. This Act shall not apply to Tamil Kammalas.
5. Kammala means and includes all Malayala Kammalas (Viswakarmas) called Asari, Kollan, Thattan, Moosari, Kallasari and others known or recognised as members of the Malayala Kammala (Viswakarma) community.

That is how the bill will run. It can make provision for any other difficulty, which the Joint Committee may suggest. This is also only a suggestion for the acceptance or rejection by the House.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

President: The usual procedure for the appointment of a joint committee shall be adopted. You will have to nominate a certain number and the other House will select an equal number. The members of this House may be nominated now.

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Mr. M. Govindan : I propose the bill may be referred to joint committee of both the Houses consisting of the following members of this House.

1. Mr. James Fletcher,
2. Mr. Mohamed Ismail,
3. Mr. P. Balakrishnan Tampi,
4. Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla
5. Mr. G. Narayana Iyer,
6. Mr. M. Govindan.

Mr. G. Nilakantan : I second the motion.

Mr. K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai : The number shall not be more than 30.

Mr. U. K. Vasudevan Achari : I propose the following members :

1. Mrs. Gnanasikhamani,
2. Mr. K. M. Kesavan, and
3. Mr. U. K. Vasudevan Achari.

The question that the Bill be referred to a joint committee consisting of the above members, was put and carried.

THE TRAVANCORE PARTITION BILL.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : I move for leave to introduce the Travancore Partition Bill.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : I second the motion.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

RESOLUTION RE : WITHDRAWAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF RICE.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : Sir, the following resolution stands in my name.

> In view of the extreme necessity and importance of rice to meet the needs of the people in the State the Council recommends to Government that they may be pleased to withdraw all restrictions on private individuals to transport rice from one place to another in the State.

The subject has already been considered and a statement has been made yesterday by the President and in the light of that I do not desire to move the resolution.

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